



1st ISSUE SPECIAL

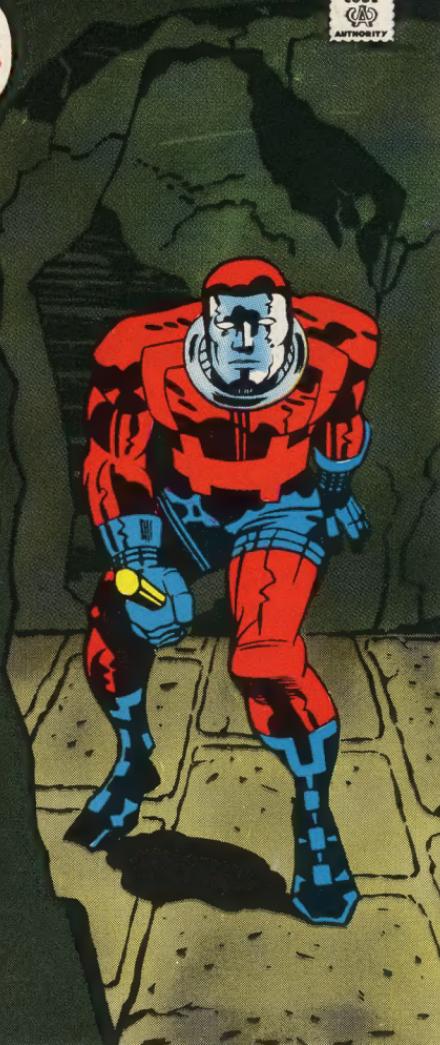
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MANHUNTER

MANHUNTER

WE KNEW
YOU'D COME,
MANHUNTER...
SOONER OR
LATER.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MANHUNTER

IN THE FAR AND DISTANT CORNERS OF THIS EARTH, THERE ARE FEARSOME CRIMINALS WHO HIDE IN VAIN FROM JUSTICE....AND A NAME WHICH HAS HAUNTED THEIR KIND THROUGH THE AGES....**THIS IS HIS STORY!!**
THIS IS THE ORIGIN OF....

MANHUNTER



1ST ISSUE SPECIAL, Vol. 1, No. 5, August, 1975. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher; Jack Kirby, Editor; Steve Sherman, Assistant Editor; Sol Harrison, Vice-President; Jack Adler, Production Manager; Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwartz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400. Copyright © 1975 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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WE ARE IN THE **LAST** REFUGE OF A MURDERING ECCENTRIC....A DERANGED, BUT FACILE MIND WHICH IS ABSORBED IN MASKS AND **KILLING**....

WELCOME,
MANHUNTER. HAVE
YOU COME TO **JOIN**
US....ON THE **WALL**
OF OUR CAVE?

YOU'VE **TRACKED**
US DOWN...ONLY TO
FIND....**DEATH!**

DEATH!
YOU WILL
FIND
DEATH!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOUR
MASK WILL HANG HERE
WITH **OURS!!**
HA-HAA-HAA!

LISTEN TO
THEM, MANHUNTER.
MY HEADS
NEVER LIE...

EVEN IF
THEY SPEAK
WITH
RECORDING
TAPE.



EDITED, WRITTEN
AND DRAWN BY
JACK KIRBY
INKED AND
LETTERED BY
D. BRUCE BERRY

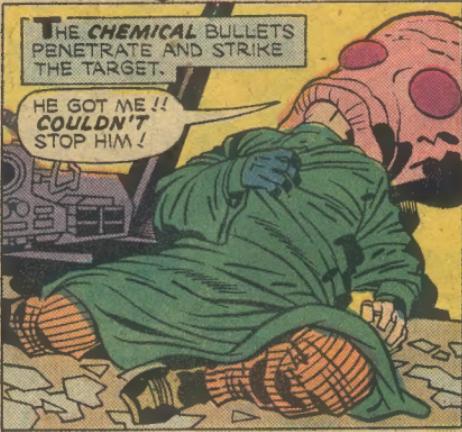


LIKE ITS SPIDER COUNTERPART, EACH HOMICIDAL MIND SPINS ENDLESS DEATH TRAPS TO CLAIM ITS VICTIMS. IT IS THE ETERNAL **RISK** OF THE ADVERSARY WHO DARES TO ENTER THE DEADLY WEB. ABOVE THE MANHUNTER, DEATH DESCENDS!! CHOPPER'S DEADLY INVENTION....

THE ELECTRIC HEAD!

CHAPTER
TWO

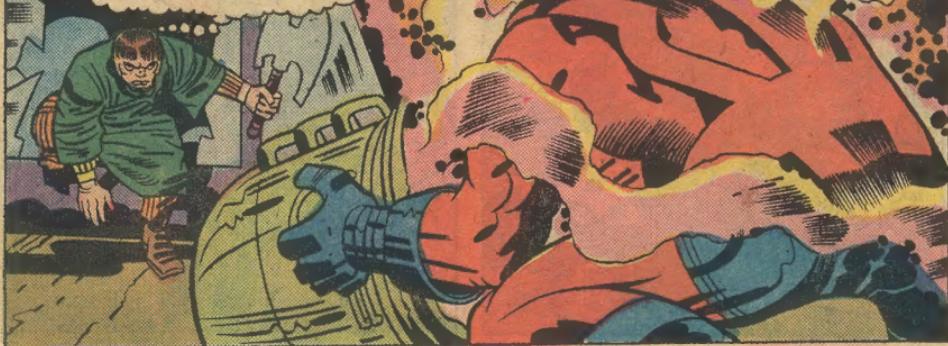




CHOPPER MOVES TOWARD HIS INTENDED VICTIM.

HE'S MANAGED TO REMOVE THE ELECTRIC HEAD. HE'S OPEN TO ATTACK.

KKKRRAAK!!



TH-THAT WAS A **BAD** JOLT, CHOPPER, BUT IT **DIDN'T** DO THE JOB.

THIS WILL! I'LL NAIL YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL SHAKEN UP!

YOU'VE FAILED, MANHUNTER!



CHOPPER IS SWIFT! BUT MANHUNTER IS FASTER! HE THRUSTS THE ELECTRIC HEAD AT THE DESCENDING AXE.



IT IS THEN THAT CHOPPER DIES!

YAAAA!





MEANWHILE, IN A QUIET SUBURB
OF A SMALL COLLEGE TOWN....

I FEEL FRUSTRATED,
UNCLE. I CAN'T GAIN
JUSTICE FOR THIS
POOR FOOL!

IT'S NOT YOUR
FAULT. YOU
CAN'T HELP
THIS MAN IF
HE WON'T
LET YOU.

DAILY HERALD

"LITTLE FISH" WON'T
TALK. MAY CHOOSE
JAIL IN PREFERENCE
TO MOB REPRISAL!

PUBLIC
DEFENDER
CANNOT SAVE
JOE BURK.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, UNCLE.
AS PUBLIC DEFENDER, I'M ASSIGNED
CLIENTS WHO CAN'T AFFORD A LAWYER.

I KNOW
THAT.

I'M A FINE DEFENDER
OF THE WEAK
AND POWERLESS.
MARK SHAW,
PUBLIC FAILURE!

YOU'VE DONE
YOUR BEST
FOR DOZENS
OF PEOPLE.

THEY'RE LITTLE PEOPLE. MANY
OF THEM ARE VICTIMS OF
THEIR OWN IGNORANCE. SOME
OF THEM ARE PAWNS OF
THOSE TOO
POWERFUL
TO TRAP!

LIKE
THIS
JOE
BURK!

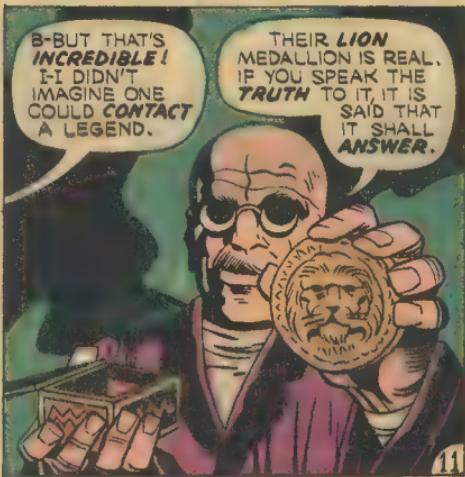
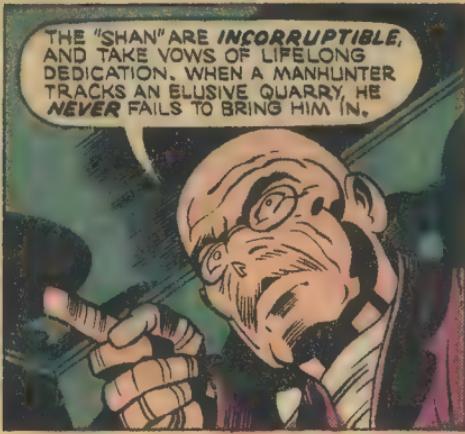
BURK IS NOT
THE MOST
SAVORY OF
CHARACTERS.
A STIFF
SENTENCE
MAY DO HIM
SOME GOOD.

THAT'S NOT THE
WAY TO JUDGE
BURK! HE'S NOT
GUILTY OF
THESE
CHARGES.

THE FACTS INDICATE
THAT BURK IS TAKING
A FALL TO COVER FOR
SOMEONE WITH POWER.
HE'S A PATSY WHO
WON'T DEFEND HIMSELF.
HE FEARS THIS POWER.

IT'S AN OLD
JUNGLE LAW.
THE BIG FISH
EAT THE
LITTLE FISH!

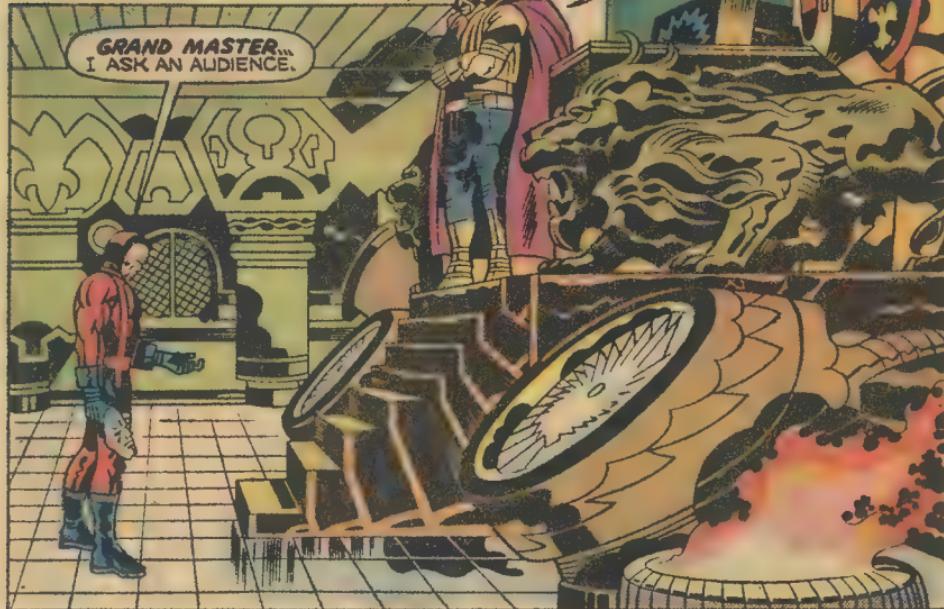




THE "SHAN" ARE REAL! THE MYSTIC MEDALLION CAN COMMUNICATE!!
...AND FATE IS ABOUT TO CREATE A...

NEW WARRIOR!

CHAPTER
THREE

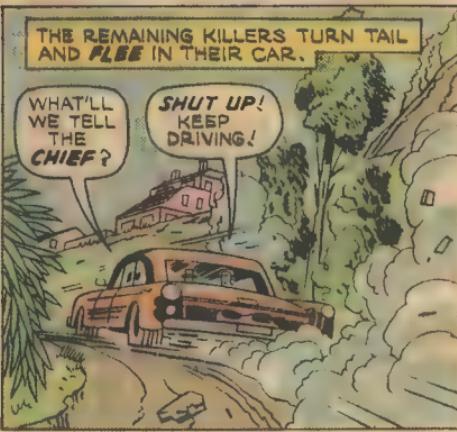


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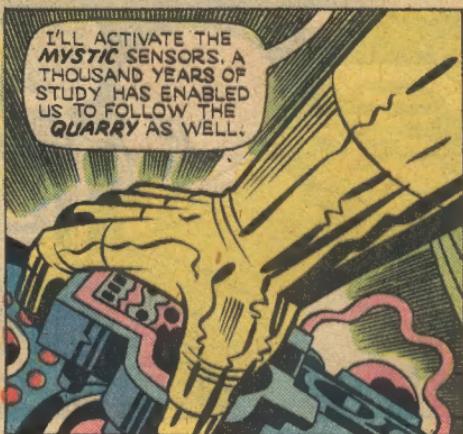












WANT TO SEE THE
"CLASH"
BETWEEN
MANHUNTER
AND
"THE HOG"?
IF SO, WRITE AND
TELL US!

THE ADDRESS IS:
MANHUNTER
P.O. BOX 336
NEWBURY PARK, CALIF.
91320

NEXT 1ST ISSUE SPECIAL
ON SALE FOURTH WEEK
IN JUNE.

MANHUNTER . . . THE JUSTICE PRINCIPLE

X-548

The cement of any society is the faith and trust each citizen places in its various institutions. (Of course, I'm referring to Democracies, which are assumed to be basically free of "Fear from the Top.") The faith of the common man is reinforced if the violators of his law are brought to trial by conscientious means on the part of society, and made to answer for this violation. Once this task is accomplished, the wheels of Justice are expected to function.

What Justice is, in any case, is debatable. We can only define it with a twelve man jury. That's about as equitable a situation as any good citizen can expect.

However, we must live with the expectation that all this will be done. This is our assurance that any crime in which we sustain injury shall be reviewed dispassionately, in its true light, and be fairly settled.

If we can't live with that assurance, if we begin to doubt its validity, then fear takes over. We begin to walk in a jungle with a gun on our hip.

In the fantasy world, this basic fear persists. But, we're able to resolve it to its highest degree of satisfaction in the representation of a superb Manhunter who acquires himself in our behalf against the canniest of criminals. We are protected by his strength, his keen insights and his willingness to act in the most dangerous of moments. He takes upon himself the weight of our problems, our dangers and our risks. We are the little guys and we need him when we're pressed. We ache for justice all the more, because the little guy throughout the ages could expect so little.

The Manhunters we create are fashioned with all the qualities we think are necessary to do the job. We even endow them with a sort of "cult-mysticism" to establish the spiritual link between them and us.

The King Arthurs, the Robin Hoods, yes even the sinister types like Javert in "Les Miserables", were sincere operators in behalf of the law of their land. In their eyes, the little guy, who was bound to his society had to be assured that society was obligated to him, and was functioning in his behalf.

Thus, Manhunter as depicted in this issue takes on the dress, the spirituality and the dangers of his brothers in the world as we know it now. That these dangers are dramatized for good reading purposes is not denied by yours truly. The villains of this piece will be the damnedest, most unique characters you've ever laid your eyes on. Their

thinking will be geared to the perfect crime and their positions will make them seem like unassailable juggernauts with a complete lack of values to boot. They will be the true predators at our door. And Manhunter shall be there when they knock.

You can't knock that premise. It's really exciting. You can be the big-little guy with the necessary moxie to handle whatever the opposition throws against you.

As an added ingredient to this basic premise, the formula shall include the vital elements of integrity and relentless insistence that justice must be brought to its needed climax. And, whatever form it takes, you shall know at its outcome that all debts have been paid. Anyone with a sense of fairness wants nothing more than that.

So let's try it once more. Into the breach with Sherlock Holmes in fancy underwear. Woe to the evil mastermind who becomes the target of our mystic crusader who is armed with our goodwill and sponsorship.

The world is our battleground. And that includes Macy's basement at midnight as well as the hunting grounds of Lapland. For whatever happens in any small corner of our environment today is our business, considering the internationalization of the criminal mind. There's no border or tariff which can keep evil from insinuating itself into our lives.

The Manhunter comic shall, however, make strong emphasis on the human character. The reader shall know his antagonist as well as his hero in fine dimensional terms. After all, we can weep just as profusely for a villain who has lost his way as we can for the most innocent of individuals.

This is the Justice principle at work. We mustn't forget that Justice encompasses the frailties as well as the strong points of human behavior. The motivations which drive the evil-doer are an extremely interesting facet of their makeup and must not be omitted in the course of story telling. It's like serving the goose without the sauce.

So let's give it the full treatment. Let's have it all, so we can shiver and shake until we hear the "all-clear."

Your friend,
Jack Kirby

All gripes and kudos will be accepted at my tattered Post Office, Box Number 336, Newbury Park, Calif. 91320. Please address it simply to Manhunter.

DC **1st** ISSUE SPECIAL 25¢

scanned by *Wizard*

